FOR MYSORE STATE

I-27—40,000—27-10-52.

[illegible] (195 ..) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. [illegible]

Dated [illegible] April 1949.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rural Reconstruction - Intensive work in selected firkas and centres - Scheme policy underlying the scheme - Note for the budget speech - Papers recorded.

Village life is in a state of transition. It is still lacking in certain vital elements of progress and efficiency.

2. With a view, therefore, to galvanising the countryside into a new life, the Government have launched their programme of intensive Rural Reconstruction work in 34 selected firkas and centres. It has been the aim of this Government to make each firka or centre selected for intensive Rural Reconstruction work as far as possible self-sufficient in the matter of food, clothing etc. and help the masses to lead a better, healthier and happier life. The scheme aims not only at the improvement of economic or sanitary conditions of villages but also at revitalising the spirit of the people, making them self-confident and giving them opportunity to take an intelligent and active interest in their problems. In short the scheme also aims at implanting in the hearts of the villagers a desire for their own improvement.

3. Although the Firka Development work was taken up by about the end of 1946, the collection of the necessary statistics and the organisation of the preliminaries took some time. Considerable time had to be given to finding ways and means of drafting the necessary plans and schemes. A definite scheme was drawn up by a Committee of experienced constructive workers including Shri J.C. Kumarappa, Shri G. Ramachandran and Rev. R.R. Keithan only in October, 1947. A new technique had to be adopted for the implementation of the scheme in view of the psychological revolution which it aims to bring about. The work of the various departments of the Government had to be properly co-ordinated to secure the maximum advantage. The progress of the scheme was therefore inevitably slow at the beginnin and is conditioned by the availability of a large number of workers equal to the task undertaken.

4. The results so far achieved have been quite appreciable and encouraging. Works are generally carried out only where the villagers bring in their contribution either in the shape of money, labour or materials. Emphasis is also laid on the execution of works by the villagers benefitted to the exclusion of profit earning agencies giving an impetus for self-improvement.

5. The Government have given first preference to improvements under "Communications" and "Rural Water Supply"

6. COMMUNICATIONS -

Work on 102 roads has been completed and work in respect of 264 more is in progress. 678 villages with a population of 7,37,280 will be served by these roads and 398 villages will have access to the main roads. The total cost of these roads, works out to about Rs.15,64,391 of which voluntary contribution in the shape of cash, labour or materials to the value of about Rs.3,90,085 is forthcoming, in addition to free land. In almost all cases lands required for the formation of these roads were obtained free of cost. The Government have also ordered that the first five year plan of P.W.R.D. schemes coming within the ambit of the F.D. schemes should be advanced and priority given for their execution.

7. RURAL WATER SUPPLY -

212 wells have been completed and work in respect of 480 more wells is in progress. The estimated cost of these wells works out to Rs.10,28,943 of which a voluntary contribution in the shape of money, labour or materials to the value of Rs.2,35,924, is forthcoming.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH -

8 dispensaries including two Ayurvedic dispensaries

one maternity, one leprosy clinic and one snake-bite-cure clinic were started. Two Nature Cure Centres were opened in the Tirumangalam firka. An Ayurvedic Veterinary dispensary was opened at Dendulur. It is proposed to open similar dispensaries in other areas after watching the success of this scheme. Orders are under issue for the opening of medical and public health centres in 25 firkas at the rate of one firka for each centre. 149 latrines of which 49 were of Wardha type were constructed. 549 manure heaps were removed to places away from dwelling houses and 54,398 feet of drains constructed. Fifty-eight houses mostly for Harijans were constructed.

ELECTRICITY

9. The villages in the firkas have been given priority in the matter of electrification. The Government have also undertaken to subsidise the deficits arising out of unremunerative electrification schemes. 8 villages of the Palladam firka, 2 villages of the Kundah firka, 4 villages of the Tirumangalam firka and 4 villages of the Shermadevi firka have had the benefit of electrical supply so far. 46 electrification schemes costing over Rs.20 lakhs have been sanctioned under the F.D. scheme for supplying power for agricultural, industrial, domestic and street lighting purposes in the selected firkas in the Southern area covering about 67 villages. Over 600 wells will be connected up under these schemes. (Please see the statement at 'N').

IRRIGATION.

10. In G.O.Ms.No.493 F.D. dated 2-8-1948, the Government have sanctioned the investigation of the schemes noted in the annexure to the G.O. to improve the irrigational facilities in the selected firkas. All the schemes (except items 3 and 4) noted as 'Major' in the annexure to the G.O. have been ordered to be investigated and taken up by the P.W.D. Item 1 of the annexure which is intended to improve the supply to the tanks that are fed by the channel in the Tiruvallur firka has since been completed at a cost of Rs.5,300/-. The plans for the co-ordinated development of firkas and centres have also been forwarded to the C.E.(I) for carrying out repairs and taking up small schemes.

11. Certain G.M.F. schemes that will materially contribute to the development of Irrigation in some of the selected firkas have already been sanctioned or are under consideration or investigation. A note explaining these schemes and their stages is at flag (M).

12. Four hundred and forty five acres of waste land were brought under cultivation. One hundred and seventeen manure pits and 202 compost pits were dug. 400 acres were bunded to prevent soil erosion. Seven tanks were repaired and 200 wells bored. Some channels were dug and the flood bank of Kovaducalva was raised to a total length of 1,750 feet in order to protect Pata Pattisan village of Polavaram firka from floods which gave a bumper crop from 2000 acres of land.

AGRICULTURE.

13. It has been decided to build up model agricultural villages in every district under the F.D. scheme, to accelerate the pace of adoption of improved agricultural methods. The model village would be made self sufficient in fodder, fuel, manure etc., and the work in this direction is to commence shortly. The selection of the model villages in the selected firkas and centres has since been completed and is put up below. The scheme will be launched in these villages shortly. The Govt. have also sanctioned one agricultural fieldman for each firka or centre.

MISCELLANEOUS

227 schools were opened at the instance of Firka Development Officers with local co-operation. - Two Harijan Cheries were rebuilt

in Pakkam firka out of this fund. Over 8000 charkas were introduced. 25 M.B. or Lahore sheds have been erected. Thirty four breeding bulls and 1 Murrah buffaloe have been provided. 25 central libraries and 287 Branch libraries were opened.

14. Practical experience has indicated that without a well disciplined band of workers trained in the practice and principles of rural reconstruction, it was not possible to achieve tangible results in a short period. The Govt., therefore, opened two training centres for the F.D. staff one in the Tirumangalam firka in the Mathurai district and the other in the Dendulur firka in the West Godavari dt.

CO-OPERATION.

15. The Government have approved the proposal for the starting of Multipurpose co-operative Societies in the Tirumangalam firka in the Mathurai district, Dendulur firka in the West Godavari district and Kumbla firka in the South Kanara district.

The Provincial Firka Development Officer has requested the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to give instructions to the district officers of the Co-operative Dept. to bring into existence co-operative societies covering all villages of the selected areas within a short time with the help and assistance of the Special Development Officers and the Firka Development Officers.

WORKS UNDER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

16. In G.O.Ms.No.59 F.D. dated 9-12-47 the Government have placed at the disposal of each Collector (except the Collector of Madras) in respect of each selected firka or centre an annual lump sum grant of Rs.10,000/- and a similar sum of Rs.10,000/- at the disposal of the Provincial Firka Development Officer for the entire Province for the execution of urgent minor schemes of improvement. As a result of this several of the needs of the villagers have been attended to then and there. A list of items illustrative of the work done under this head will be found on p.9 below.

BASIC EDUCATION.

17. Government have ordered the conversion of seven ordinary training schools into Basic Training Schools during the year 1948-49. Further, they have proposed to start Basic Training Schools in each district in order to train the teachers in the elementary schools. The Government have issued instructions to all Collectors to suggest to the Basic Education Officer suitable sites in the selected firkas for locating these Basic Training Schools, with a view to see that as many elementary schools as possible are converted into Basic Education Schools.

Provision has been made in the budget for the next financial year for construction of buildings for housing 17 Basic Education Schools and 10 Basic Training Schools.

CONSTITUTION OF PANCHAYATS.

18. Orders have been issued to the I.L.B. asking him to take steps to constitute a Panchayat for each of the villages in the selected firkas and for the introduction of ward system in these Panchayats wherever necessary. 25 Panchayats have been constituted upto December 1948.

FORMATION OF GRAMA SEVA SANGAMS.

19. The Government have approved the suggestion of the Select Committee regarding the organisation of

of Grama Seva Sangams for attending to the various schemes of reconstruction in the selected firkas. The model constitution for the Grama Seva Sangams submitted by the Provincial Firka Development Officer has been approved by the Govt. The Collectors have been asked to see that Grama Seva Sangams are constituted in each village of the area selected for intensive rural development as quickly as possible.

20. It is proposed (i) to subsidise the construction of 100 houses in each of the 34 firkas and centres at the rate of Rs.150/- per house, (ii) to draw up a scheme for colonising the Koragas in the Kumbla firka at an estimated cost of Rs.17,000/- and (iii) subsidise the construction of 200 houses for Harijans of Arundhavapuram as per the scheme prepared by the Collector of Tanjore. It is also proposed to start Agricultural Co-operatives in the selected areas, supply seeds and implements at the rate of Rs.2,000/- for each firka or centre, purchase and subsidise the maintenance of stud bulls at the rate of 5 per each firka, open poultry farms, introduce bee-hives etc.

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5-3-1949

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7-3-1949

H.M. (F.D.)

p.t.o.

Firka Development Deptt.

To A.S.

This file deals with the note on the policy underlying the Firka Development Scheme prepared for the use of the Hon'ble Minister (Firka Development) during the budget session. No further action is necessary in this file. For orders whether the papers may be recorded as they will be useful for future reference.

(Sd) ** **
14-4-1949

G.O.Ms.No.403, dated 18th April 1949

Abstract

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION - Intensive work in selected firkas and centres - Scheme - Policy underlying the scheme - Note for the budget speech - Papers - Recorded.

** **
12-4-1949.

(True copy)

for Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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